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COORDINATING ROLE OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND MACHINERY DEALING WITH THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 1991/22

Addendum

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International Movement ATD Fourth World

[23 January 1992]
[Original: French]

Apart from questions connected with the geographical distribution of staff of the Centre for Human Rights, the principal preoccupation of the International Movement ATD Fourth World is what position the future of the poorest populations and families will occupy in the concerns of the Centre's management, over and above and independently of their geographical origin.

World Young Women's Christian Association

[31 January 1992]
[Original: English]

We are naturally much concerned with the promotion of human rights, and in particular with the situation of women, especially young women. We would therefore urge full consideration of all measures directed towards strengthening the work of the Centre. We know that this involves greater attention to new and complex questions in the developing world and that the Centre must give new energies to these questions. We would also be in favour of appropriate measures to integrate women more effectively in the Secretariat. We do not seek preference for women irrespective of merit but we know from experience that women have special needs and problems in the field of human rights and can contribute towards meeting them within the framework of international actions, and we therefore urge that recruitment, and related personnel and structural policies take account of these considerations.

We are particularly concerned, at the moment, with the number of questions of interest to the Centre in strengthening its work.

One of these is the right of the girl child and we very much hope that the Centre can find ways to reinforce action to ensure girls the opportunities and social protection they need to grow into young women, now and in the future. In this connection, we hope that, at all levels, your plans for action will take full account of the need for the international and regional staff of the Centre to work closely with non-governmental organizations concerned with the welfare and development of the girl child in all the different parts of the world.

Another area of concern is refugee women and children and how we can all help to ensure that they are included in human rights activities at the present time. This again, is a field requiring close cooperation at all levels between international and national agencies, their secretariats and non-governmental organizations, and mutual evaluation of results.

Finally, as we look ahead, we feel certain that the Centre must equip itself to confront problems of human rights relating to religious freedoms in a changing world. There again, we would seek your cooperation in helping us

to adapt our work to new needs and situations and would also urge the Centre to orient its own work more effectively to meet those our associations are facing in their day-to-day activities.

We shall be glad to cooperate in any way possible with the implementation of decisions arising from the Commission's resolution on strengthening the activities of the Centre for Human Rights, in particular in relation to steps taken to improve the status of women and children.